

The Western Thoracic Surgical Association

Announcement of 2009 Annual Meeting

The Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Western Thoracic Surgical Association will be held June 24-27, 2009 at the Fairmont Banff Springs in Banff, Alberta, Canada. The scientific sessions are open to all duly qualified physicians. Participation in other Association activities for members, invited guests, and program participants requires payment of a social registration fee.

Requests for Meeting Information

Meeting preregistration and hotel registration forms are available from:

Western Thoracic Surgical Association
900 Cummings Center
Suite 221-U

Beverly, MA 01915
978-927-8330; fax: 978-524-8890
wtsa@prri.com

Application for Membership

Applications for membership in the Association must be received by the Membership Committee Chair no later than March 1, 2009 to be considered at the 2009 Annual Meeting. Applicants must be sponsored by three members of the Association who are not members of the Membership Committee. Application forms will be issued only to sponsoring members.

Address correspondence to:

Chair, Membership Committee
The Western Thoracic Surgical Association
900 Cummings Center
Suite 221-U
Beverly, MA 01915
978-927-8330; fax: 978-524-8890
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The American Board of Thoracic Surgery

Notices

The part I (written) examination was held on December 3. It is planned that this examination will be given at multiple sites throughout the United States using an electronic format. The closing date for registration is August 1 each year. Those wishing to be considered for examination must apply online at www.abts.org.

To be admissible for the Part II (oral) examination, a candidate must have successfully completed the Part I (written) examination.

A candidate applying for admission to the certifying examination must fulfill all the requirements of the Board in force at the time the application is received. Please address all communications to the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, 633 North St Clair Street, Suite 2320, Chicago, IL 60611 (telephone: 312-202-5900).

Requirements for Maintenance of Certification

Diplomates of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery (ABTS) who plan to participate in the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process must hold an unrestricted medical license in the locale of their practice and privileges in a hospital accredited by the JCAHO (or other organization recognized by the ABTS). In addition, a valid ABTS certificate is an absolute requirement for entrance into the Maintenance of Certification process. If your certificate has expired, the

only pathway for renewal of a certificate is to take and pass the Part I (written) and the Part II (oral) certifying examinations.

The names of individuals who have not maintained their certificate will no longer be published in the American Board of Medical Specialties Directories. Diplomates' names will be published upon successful completion of the Maintenance of Certification process.

The CME requirements are 30 Category I credits earned during each year prior to application. At least half of these CME hours need to be in the broad area of thoracic surgery. Category II credits are not allowed. Interested individuals should refer to the Booklet of Information for Maintenance of Certification for a complete description of acceptable CME credits. Diplomates will be expected to submit verification of CME earned.

Diplomates in the Maintenance of Certification process will need to provide a summary of their major cases performed during the year prior to application. The practice review should not exceed 100 cases.

Diplomates in the Maintenance of Certification process will be required to complete all sections of the SESATS self-assessment examination. It is not necessary for Diplomates to purchase SESATS individually, because it will be sent to them after their application has been approved.

Diplomates may apply for Maintenance of Certification in the year their certificate expires, or if they wish to do so, they may apply up to two years before it expires. However, the new certificate will be dated 10 years from the date of expiration of their original certificate or most recent recertification certificate. In other words, going through the

Maintenance of Certification process early does not alter the 10-year validation. Diplomates certified prior to 1976 (the year that time-limited certificates were initiated) are also required to participate in MOC if they wish to maintain valid certificates.

The deadline for submission of application for the Maintenance of Certification is May 10 of each year. All ABTS diplomates will receive a letter from the Board outlining

their individual timeline and MOC requirements. A brochure outlining the rules and requirements for Maintenance of Certification in thoracic surgery is available upon request from the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, 633 North St. Clair Street, Suite 2320, Chicago, IL 60611; telephone (312) 202-5900; fax (312) 202-5960; email info@abts.org. This booklet is also published on the website: www.abts.org.

The Foundation for Accelerated Vascular Research Annual Wylie Scholar Award, Application Deadline March 16, 2009

The Foundation for Accelerated Vascular Research (FAVR) Annual Wylie Scholar Award consists of a 3-years, \$150,000 grant given to the most promising vascular surgeon scientists in North America who are dedicated to an academic career involving original, innovative basic laboratory or clinical investigation. FAVR's Wylie Scholar Program is designed to support

outstanding surgeons in the initial phase of their academic career, and to provide the financial assistance that will enable their development into academic vascular surgeon-scientists.

- Applications will be accepted beginning January 1, 2009.
- Application materials must be received by March 16, 2009.
- For more information or to apply, visit <http://www.fevresearch.org/Wylie/Application>.